

Eggers

S. Thomas 20<sup>th</sup> July 1880

My dear Doctor Gray:

Your letter of 13<sup>th</sup> last month did not reach me till a few days ago it having been sent via Port-au-Prince.

If you think, that \$10 would be the best price for America, we will certainly put it at that, the difference between this price and the \$12.50 demanded for Europe, being easily explained in the comparatively shorter distance and consequent lesser freight to be paid on the parcels.

I am glad to hear Dr. Garber has reached home, I hope safely, I must no doubt ascribe it to his previous health that he never acknowledged my letters nor the receipt of the copy of Grisebach, I forwarded to him. I am astonished at his poor success, during my short stay in Dominica I made a collection much larger in only 20 days. I can only explain Dr. G.'s want of success by assuming, that he has remained in the lowland, where of course the drought during winter is always most felt. In the mountains he would certainly have been sure to find more than work enough.

It was exactly at the same time of the year that I was in Dominica and the mountains from there did indeed not leave anything to be desired with regard to variety of species.

Mr. Cutler would no doubt be the right man for us here, he must

be somewhat accustomed to a tropical climate and  
will no doubt be a success. I should wish very much to  
commence a correspondence with him on the subject, more so,  
if you leave for Europe in Sept., and also in order to relieve you  
of this extra-work, which you have been kind enough to do with  
regard to the exploration of the W. I. islands, and which certainly  
ought not to interfere with your other important works.

I hope to hear from you once more before you go abroad and shall  
not fail, if you will permit me, from time to time to send you  
accounts of how we are getting on out here. Portorico certainly  
shall be the first object, next Haiti. These two are the most  
important and those, which promise the richest reward at once.

I presume it will be necessary to have an agent in America  
to whom parcels with plants may be addressed for distribution  
and who could receive subscriptions. I see there exists a Natural  
History Bureau in Salem, Mass., conducted by Mr. Geo. Bates,  
perhaps you know him or his institute, and might know  
whether he would be the proper person for such an undertaking.

I remain, dear Sir, with best regards

Yours very truly  
Eggers